PA-GALA SENDS A VFP SUBSCRIPTION TO ALL OF ITS MEMBERS
JOIN PA-GALA BY SENDING $20 TO: PA-GALA, P.O. BOX 20825 LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002

# VALLEY FREE PRESS

THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S GAY & LESBIAN OPINION & NEWS PAPER

VOL. 7 NO. 6 PRIDE THROUGH JULY 2004

SERVING THE LEHIGH VALLEY'S GAY, LESBIAN, BISEXUAL AND TRANSGENDER COMMUNITY SINCE 1998!

JUNE PRIDE ISSUE FOR LATE JUNE & ALL OF JULY

# ALLENTOWN'S ANTI-DISCRIMINATION LAW STRUCK DOWN BY LOWER COURT

## ACTIVISTS SEEK APPEAL -- READ ABOUT IT ON PAGE 2

## GWEN GREENBERG JAMES HALLEMAN

## PRIDE PARADE GRAND MARSHALLS

This year's Greater Lehigh Valley Pride Parade Grand Marshalls are strong public activists for Transgender rights, both locally and nation wide. The Valley Free Press and the greater Lehigh Valley GLBTA population salute Gwen Greenberg and James Halleman for their many contributions to the community.

## DAN ANDERS TO BE HONORED BY PA-GALA & VFP

Dan Anders of the Philadelphia law firm Pepper Hamilton LLP, will be honored for his tireless commitment to fighting for the rights of the Lehigh Valley GLBT community. Dan was the lawyer who helped PA-GALA beat the referendum and is the lead attorney representing the City of Allentown in defense of the anti-discrimination ordinance.

DAN ANDERS

## ANTI-GAY BIRMELIN AMENDMENTS STILL POISED FOR HARRISBURG VOTE

see page 5.

## PA-GALA AND THE VALLEY FREE PRESS WILL BE PART OF THE TV SHOW, THE AMERICAN CANDIDATE ON SHOWTIME

see page 3.

## FACT SUMMER GAMES

FACT will again hold the Summer Games at Rainbow Mountain Resort Sunday, Sept 12 at noon. See the Septmeber VFP for details.

## DONNA CRUCIANI IS THE ONLY OPENLY GLBT DELEGATE FROM PENNSYLVANIA WHO WAS ELECTED TO ATTEND THE DEMOCRATIC CONVENTION AND SHE'S OURS!

You are invited to a special evening of "Dessert with Friends," A PA-GALA Fundraiser celebrating PA's GLBT Delegate to the Democratic National Convention, Donna Cruciani. Friday, July 9, 7:00 PM – 8:30pm. St. John's Church School Building (down the street from the Allentown Post Office at 5th & Hamilton) 32 S 5th St.

## PFLAG PICNIC JULY 11

Area rganizations of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays will be holding their annual picnic, Sunday, July 11 from 3 - 8PM at the home of Don & Melinda Kohn. All members of the GLBTA community are invited. PFLAG will be cooking burgers and hot dogs and supplying drinks. Bring your favorite dish to share. Contact info@eastern-pa-pflag.org. or call the PFLAG hotline: 610-967-5219 for directions & to RSVP.

# ALLENTOWN'S ANTI-DISCRIMINATION ORDINANCE SUFFERS LOSS IN COURT

Judge Alan Black of the Lehigh County Court of Common Pleas has issued a ruling on the City of Allentown's addition of sexual orientation and gender identity to the City's anti-discrimination ordinance. Based on a rarely cited state statute that says in effect -- Home Rule Charter cites may not enact laws that place duties or responsibilities on businesses -- Judge Black struck down the parts of Allentown's Ordinance that go beyond what is expressly provided for in State law.

This is an unduly broad interpretation of this State statute. While other Pennsylvania city's ordinances are not immediately effected, further litigation could invalidate laws in the cities of Pittsburgh and Scranton, which are also Home Rule cities. Under this interpretation, many of the other ordinances put in place by Allentown City Council could become void. Other important Allentown ordinances such as the Allentown Landlord Licensing Ordinance could be effected by this ruling.

This statute could be seen to limit a significant amount of the legislative ability of Allentown City Council -- reverting most law making responsibilities that effect the city, back to Harrisburg.

Judge Black's ruling maintained that it is only this one statute that stops Pennsylvania Home Rule cities from enacting ordinances that regulate businesses. He dismissed the other arguments that involved other points of Pennsylvania law such as whether the Pennsylvania Human Relations Act preempts the Ordinance.

It is up to the City of Allentown to now appeal this ruling. Dan Anders of Pepper Hamilton LLP in Philadelphia, who has been the lead counsel in this fight, has assured the Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance (PA-GALA) and the City that he and Pepper Hamilton will continue to represent the City pro-bono.

**Dan Anders has told PA-GALA, that the protections of Allentown's anti-discrimination ordinance will most likely stay in effect during the appeals process.**

"When this legislation was introduced in 2002, it garnered a huge amount of public support, which included packed City Council chambers of pro-ordinance spectators and speakers. A referendum to repeal the ordinance failed. The ordinance has enjoyed bipartisan support from almost every legislator who represents Allentown at the city, county, state and national levels," said Liz Bradbury, Lehigh Valley Coordinator of PA-GALA."

"Equal rights for LGBT people have never come easily and PA-GALA will continue to fight in the public, political and legal arena for equal rights for LGBT citizens," said PA-GALA political director Steve Black.

Other lawyers who filed briefs in support the City's Ordinance include Elisabeth Shuster of the Pennsylvania Human Relations Commission, Mary Catherine Roper of Drinker Biddle & Reath, Malia Brink of the ACLU of PA, and Cynthia Schneider of the Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights.

The Pennsylvania Gay and Lesbian Alliance (PA-GALA) is the largest gay, lesbian, bisexual and Transgender political organization in Pennsylvania.

# RAGS TO RICHES TAKE THE FIRST STEP

*by Denise McKelvey©*

**Dear Denise,** Can you explain me and my partner the differences between credit cards and debit cards? We are both trying to get ahead, from a financial standpoint. Neither of us have a huge debt on our cards, but we are looking for some solutions. **Signed, Focusing on Debt-free**

**Dear Focusing,** Many of us don't think twice about reaching into our wallets and grabbing the nearest piece of plastic available to pay for the Key West Cruise. But beware. If you are in the habit of using your debit card over your credit card, you might discover some of the card's real limitations the hard way. Sure, your debit card looks like a credit card, charges just like a credit card - but if something goes awry with your purchase, you'll have only a few of the same protections you have come to appreciate with most credit cards.

**More Leverage With Your Merchant --** Under the Fair Credit Billing Act, consumers have the right to withhold payment on poor-quality or damaged merchandise purchased with a credit card. But with a debit card, you have even less leverage than using a check. The moment your debit card is used, and you enter your PIN number; the money is instantly deducted from the bank account. If there is a problem with your purchase, too bad, the merchant already has your money and the threat of withholding payment has disappeared.

A little-known fact which will help protect you when using a debit card; when given the option of either entering your PIN number or signing for the transaction, always sign your signature to complete the sale. Why? Because when you sign your name, the vendor gets an authorization number from the bank, the bank gets another one from the vendor, but the charge is not valid until the vendor sends the bank the signed receipt from the transaction. This gives you a bit more time in case of any problems. In addition, the bank considers this paper trail similar to a credit card transaction and thus, works under the same time frame as a credit card.

Another important advantage of using a credit card is theft protection, should your item be lost or stolen within 90 days of the purchase. By using a debit card, you also eliminate the float-factor. You would sacrifice the 23-day time frame before having to pay the credit card bill.

Finally, if you are making purchases on the Internet, you have even fewer options of recourse against a merchant, since there's no brick and mortar store to go into to lodge your complaint after the fact. Sometimes, there is not even a real merchant. Credit card companies do not take kindly to phony merchants and will use the full muscle of their financial institution to protect you and them. Take advantage of this factor.

Denise McKelvey. CFS is a financial advisor for American Express Financial located at 5100 Tilghman Street Suite 170 Allentown PA 18104. Please mail or email questions to denise.m.mckelvey@aexp.com. Information contained in this article may not be suitable for your specific financial situation.

# MCCLV UPCOMING EVENTS

June 27 Annual Bus Trip to NYC Gay Pride Parade and Festival - Cost $20 per person. October 9th - MCCLV's 20th Anniversary Dinner - Lehigh University's Iacocca Hall - Wood Dining Room - A joyous milestone in MCCLV's and the Lehigh Valley's GLBT Community history. Details to follow.

## FOR LEGAL INFO ON 2ND PARENT ADOPTION

...or if your lawyer has questions call The Center for Lesbian and Gay Civil Rights in Philadelphia toll free at 1-866-LGBT-LAW.

Valley Free Press does not discriminate on the basises listed in the anti-discrimination statement on page 8 , and asks that organizations or individuals which request VFP to publish information about their events maintain a similar policy.

HOT NEWS

# B&N GLBT BOOK CLUB

The Barnes and Noble GLBT Book Discussion Group meets the second Thursday of each month from 7:30-9:00PM in the cafe, at the Whitehall Store. PLEASE NOTE THE NEW TIME. Each participant will receive a complimentary beverage.

Thursday, June 10, 7:30pm: The group will be discussing Leroy Aarons' book "Prayers for Bobby." It is about Bobby Griffith, an all-American boy who was also gay. Faced with an irresolvable conflict - for both his family and his religion that taught him being gay was "wrong"- Bobby chose to take his own life. This is also the story of Bobby's mother, a fearful churchgoer who first prayed that her son would be "healed," then anguished over his suicide, and ultimately transformed herself into a national crusader for gay and lesbian youth (PFLAG). Some of you may recognize this as performed, and recorded through song, by the Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus.

July's selection, "The Kid" by Dan Savage, candidly narrates the adoption journey as taken by him and his boyfriend, Terry Miller. It tells a no-holds-barred, high-energy story of an ordinary American couple who wants to have a baby, except that in this case the couple happens to be Dan and his boyfriend.

The book for August will be selected at the June meeting. EVERYONE is welcome. For information, contact Barnes and Noble at: crm2636@bn.com.

# HAVEN YOUTH GROUP

HAVEN MEETINGS : every Wednesday from 7:00 - 9:00PM at the Unitarian Universalist Church, 424 Center Street, Bethlehem. Meetings are open to GLBTAQ youth ages 14 - 20. For information: havenfacilitators @yahoogroups.com or 610-868-2153.

# 10TH ANNUAL GAYDAY AT KNOEBELS

WHERE: KNOEBELS GROVE AMUSEMENT PARK - ELYSBURG PA
WHEN: Saturday, August 14
LOCATION IN PARK: PAVILION T-10
TIMES: Registration - 11:00 AM
COVERED DISH LUNCH and RAFFLES: 3:00 PM for more information email - mike.escobar@gtscompanies.com

# STEVIE Z

Stevie Z will be playing at the Stonewall MooseLounge in Allentown on Friday: July 16, August 20 and September 17 -- 9PM-Midnite. There is no cover charge before 9pm. After that it's $5. One half of tips raised in June will be donated to FACT (Fighting AIDS Continuously Together).

# PRIZM PROM

A May community highlight, was HAVEN's Prizm Prom.

photo by Liz Sherry

Celebrating against a rainbow backdrop, Erica Olson, 16, (left) holds her girlfriend Kira Whalen, 17, at the Prizm Prom. Both are juniors at Freedom High School.

# INTERWEAVE ICE CREAM SOCIAL

Interweave (of UUCLV) invites the GLBTIA community to an Ice Cream Social on Friday, July 9 at 7:30 pm at the UUCLV, 424 Center St. Bethlehem. All are welcome. For more info about Interweave, email AREGSVOL@aol.com or allysondiane@hotmail.com.

# GLOSS EVENTS

The Gay & Lesbian Organized Sports Society (GLOSS) summer 2004 schedule is in full swing. Come meet GLOSS on the sand volleyball courts at Pride in the Park. Besides volleyball, GLOSS offers tennis, racquetball, bowling and Pinochle. For a full schedule please contact GLOSS, phone: 610-434-2966, email: Info@gloss.org, web: www.gloss.org.

# FREE HIV TESTING AT THE PRIDE FESTIVAL

The Allentown Health Bureau will be administering free HIV screenings from 1:00 – 4:00pm.

# ORAQUICK HIV TESTING

HIV Testing will be offered all day at Lehigh Valley Hospital at 17th & Chew on Monday, June 28, 9:00am - 3:30pm, at the AIDS Activities Office on the 6th floor (red elevator) using the OraQuick Rapid Test. Testing is free of charge.

# ALLENTOWN HEALTH DEPT. REMINDER

Reminder - tis the season for lyme disease and west nile encephalitis! Use your bug repellent to prevent tick and mosquito bites. Use front-line or repellent on your animals as well. Enjoy the warm weather!!!

# Integrity

Integrity will meet at Christ Church Stroudsburg for a Eucharist on Saturday July 3 at 5pm and then spend the evening at a home in Bangor. Information: 610-758-8642, gamba.guy@verizon.net

# PFLAG TIMES

PFLAG - Parents, Families & Friends of Lesbians & Gays, www.eastern-pa-pflag.org. e-mail:info@eastern-pa-pflag.org. Meeting locations: LV - 1st Tues., 1st Pres. Church, Allentown. 610-967-5219. Reading - 3rd Tues., Unitarian Universalist Church, Reading. 610-967-5219. Monroe - 1st Wed., Eastern Monroe Public Library, Stroudsburg. 570-620-1234.

Upcoming Meeting Dates:
Don't miss the PFLAG Picnic: see page 1.
Allentown: No Meeting in July; August 3
Monroe: July 7, August 4
Reading: No Meetings until Sept.

# AMERICAN CANDIDATE

A reality SHOWTIME TV show called the American Candidate was filmed in the Lehigh Valley in June. It pits every day people against each other in a mock run for President. PA-GALA endorsed Keith Boykin, a knowledgable openly gay, African American candidate, and encouraged people to faux vote for him. PA-GALA hopes Boykin stays in the race, so he can speak to America about GLBT civil rights. Two other candidates, Malia Lazu and Lisa Witter also sought PA-GALA endorsement. They were good candidates who supported GLBT issues as well. The first episode of this show will air in August, The Allentown episode will be the second show.

# CALENDAR

**AA** --AA meetinss on Wednesdays at MCCLV, Begin at 7pm
**ACCO**-A Chorus Celebrating Women,
**AIDS Outreach**-112 N. 5th St. Allentown, PA 610.435.8424
**AIDSWALK**- AIDSWALK Lehigh Valley - 610.974.8701 www.regiononline.com/lvaids
**ASC**-AIDS Service Center 610.974.8701
**All Together Now** - Supportive Ecumenical Christians, 610-398-1286, bluemountain@entermail.net
**BMA**- Bucks/Montgomery Alliance for Gay and Lesbian Concerns 215-529-0360
**B&N**- Barnes and Noble Gay&Lesbian Book Club, White Hall store, Monthly, 7:00pm
**CIVIC and 19th St**. Theater, 527 N 19th St, 610-432-8943, <.civictheater,com>
**Enigma** Players -- qacres@prolog.net
**equal@agere** - email: equal@agere.com
**FACT**- Fighting AIDS Continuously Together 610.820.5519
**GLEE** at Air Products
**GLISN**- at Dun & Bradstreet, <vagranthollow.com/GLISN/>
**GLORA**- Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown (Social gatherings, various dates) Newsletter- The Tassle. Write to: GLORA, PO Box 541, Bethlehem, PA 18016-0541, email- GLORAinPA@AOL.COM
**GLOSS** - Gay and Lesbian Organized Sports Society, P.O.Box 21862 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002 610.434.2966.
**GLOW**- at PPL
**GMLV**- Gay Men of the Lehigh Valley, 2nd Saturdays Monthly 7pm, 610-709-8800
**HAVEN** GLBT Youth Group of the UUC LV - call: 610-868-2153, email: havenyouthgroup@hotmail.com
**HMFF**-Hope Ministry Family Fellowship, Sundays, 11 am, Open Space Gallery, 931 Hamilton St. 610-791-0716
**Integrity**- Lesbian & Gay Episcopalians Family & Friends meets quarterly. 610-758-8642 gamba.guy@verizon.net"
**LVGMC** -Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus, email:info@lvmgc.org, <www.lvgmc.org> 610-366-3320, rehearsals: Wesley United Methodist Church, 2540 Center St., Bethlehem
**Lehigh Valley Transsexual Coalition**- 610-997-5474, humanrights4all@aol.com, 610-814-0530 james30338874@aol.com
**MCC** - Metropolitian Community Church, Merchants Square Mall, 1901 S. 12th Street, Allentown Services: 10:30am & 6pm, mcclehigh valley@ yahoo.com, http://www.mcclv.org 610-709-8800
**NCC**- Northampton Community College GLB Student Union, 610.861.5541(#1386) or 882-2531
**19th St & Civic Theatre** - 610.432.8943
**Out There**- Students at Cedar Crest College
**OVOM**-LV Documentary Film Org.
**PA-GALA** - PA Gay And Lesbian Alliance for Political Action, (Candidate Info Booklet, & Political Lobbying) For membership: send $20 to: P.O.Box 20825 Lehigh Valley 18002 610.432.5449 pa-gala.org
**PARENTS**- GLBT parent's group: 610-262-2519
**PFLAG - LV** Parents Families & Friends of Lesbians and Gays, 1st Tues. 1st Pres. Church Allentown 610.967.5219 <HTTP://www.eastern-pa-pflag.org/>
**Pride** - Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley, (Pride Festival) 610.770.6200, email: <info@prideglv.org>, <www.pridelv.org>
**QuEST** - Student group at Lafayette College , <QuEST_Lafayette@hotmail.com>

# JUNE 2004 PRIDE MONTH

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | 1 LV PFLAG GLOSS LVGMC MCC | 2 HAVEN PFLAG M AA | 3 RAA ACCO GLOSS M PFLAG | 4 | 5 GLOSS Gay Men's Chorus Concert |
| 6 HMFF UUCLV MCC Interweave Pride Pageant GLOSS | 7 RAA | 8 GLOSS LVGMC MCC | 9 HAVEN AA | 10 Pride Pageant RAA ACCO GLOSS B&N BOOKCLUB | 11 | 12 WDIY GLOSS MCC Dance |
| 13 HMFF MCC GLOSS | 14 RAA | 15 GLOSS LVGMC PFLAG R | 16 HAVEN American Candidate AA | 17 ACCO RAA GLOSS American Candidate | 18 | 19 StevieZ WDIY GLOSS |
| 20 PRIDE EVENTS UUCLV MCC | 21 RAA | 22 LVGMC GLOSS | 23 AA HAVEN | 24 ACCO RAA GLOSS | 25 | 26 GLOSS WDIY GLORA Picnic |
| 27 UUCLV HMFF MCC BUS GLOSS WDIY | 28 RAA HIV TESTING FAHRENHEIT 9/11 | 29 | 30 GLOSS LVGMC HAVEN FAHRENHEIT 9/11 | | | |

# JULY 2004

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| | | FAHRENHEIT 9/11 | | 1 RAA | 2 | 3 MCC CONC WDIY GLOSS Integrity |
| 4 WDIY UUCLV MCC HMFF | 5 RAA | 6 GLOSS MCC LV PFLAG LVGMC | 7 HAVEN AA M PFLAG | 8 RAA GLOSS B&N BOOKCLUB | 9 Interweave Ice Cream Social DONNA C. FUNDRAISER | 10 GLORA Picni WDIY GLOSS |
| 11 WDIY PFLAG Picnic HMFF MCC UUCLV | 12 RAA FAHRENHEIT 9/11 | 13 LVGMC | 14 HAVEN AA | 15 RAA GLOS PFLAG P | 16 StevieZ | 17 GLOS GLORA WDIY GLOS |
| 18 HMFF MCC WDIY UUCLV GLOS | 19 RAA | 20 GLOS PFLAG R LVGMC | 21 HAVEN AA | 22 RAA GLOS | 23 - | 24 WDIY GLOS |
| 25 HMFF GLORA Picnic UUCLV GLOS WDIY MCC | 26 GLSEN RAA | 27 | 28 HAVEN AA | 29 RAA GLOS | 30 | 31 |

# AUGUST 2004

| Sunday | Monday | Tuesday | Wednesday | Thursday | Friday | Saturday |
|---|---|---|---|---|---|---|
| 1 | 2 | 3 LV PFLAG | 4 M PFLAG | 5 | 6 | 7 WDIY GLOSS |
| 8 WDIY HMFF UUCLV MCC | 9 RAA | 10 GLOSS MCC LVGMC | 11 HAVEN AA | 12 GLOSS RAA B&N BOOKCLUB | 13 | 14 WDIY GLOS GAY DAY KNOEBELS |
| 15 HMFF WDIY UUCLV MCC GLOSS Bowling | 16 RAA | 17 LVGMC MCC | 18 HAVEN AA | 19 RAA GLOSS | 20 StevieZ | 21 GLOSS WDIY GLOS MCC -- GLORA CAMPOUT |
| 22 HMFF GLOSS MCC WDIY UUCLV | 23 RAA | 24 GLOSS PFLAG R LVGMC MCC | 25 HAVEN AA | 26 GLOSS PFLAG P RAA | 27 | 28 WDIY |
| 29 HMFF GLOSS WDIY UUCLV MCC | 30 RAA | 31 GLOSS LVGMC MCC | HAVEN AA | RAA GLOSS | | WDIY GLOSS |

**Quakers**-Lehigh Valley Friends Meeting-Route 512 1/2 mi. North of Rte 22 Bethlehem, PA. Worship at 9:30 am. (610)691-3411.
**RAA**- Rainbow AA meetings, Mon. & Thurs. At 16th and Turner.
**Ren**- Renaissance Transgendered Assoc., Meets at MCCLV renlv.org
**Rainbow Space** - Muhlenberg College Organization 610.821.3244
**Reading P-FLAG**- 610-967-5219
**Safe Space**- At Lehigh U. 610.758.5973
**Saint John's Lutheran Church**- A welcoming, gay affirming church, 32 S. 5th st. Allentown 610.435.1587
**Softball**-(Women's) call Diamonz, 610.865.1028
**Spectrum**- at Lehigh Univ., 610.758.5973
**T.O.** - Theatre Outlet-29 Nth 9th St, Allentown, 610-820-9270.
**Unity**- 26 N. 3rd St. Emmaus, 767-4417
**UUCLV** - Unitarian Universalist Church LV, 424 Center St., Bethlehem, 18018 610.866.7652.
**VFP** - Valley Free Press, 610.432.5449, liztrish@aol.com
**VYH** - Valley Youth House for emotionally troubled GLBT youth 610.432.6481
**Wachovia-GALEA**- Gay And Lesbian Employee Association. Contact GALEA@Wachovia.com
**WDIY** - WDIY - 88.1 fm 93.9 fm Sat. 6:00 pm This Way Out, Assorted Women 6:30 pm. 610-694-8100.88.

## SPECIAL UPCOMING EVENTS:

GLBT YOUTH GROUP
HAVEN - WEDNESDAYS
LV BEARS - 1ST SATURDAYS
GAY MEN-LV - 2ND SATURDAYS
LV PFLAG - 1ST TUESDAYS
MONROE PFLAG -
1ST THURSDAYS
READING -
PFLAG 3RD TUESDAYS
POTTSVILLE PFLAG
- 3RD THURSDAYS
GLOSS VOLLEYBALL -TUESDAYS
GLSEN - IS ON BREAK
GLOSS TENNIS - SUNDAYS
GLOSS RACQUETBALL
-TUES & SATS

JUNE 19 - STEVIEZ @ MOOSELOUNGE
JUNE 20 - UUCLV PRIDE SERVICE
JUNE 20 - PRIDE FESTIVAL
PARADE & OTHER EVENTS
JUNE 20 - MCCLV ICE CREAM SOCIAL
JUNE 26 - GLORA PICNIC/TEA
JUNE 27
- MCC BUS TRIP TO PRIDE NYC
JUNE 27 -JULY 18 FAHRENHEIT 9/11
JUNE 28 - LVH HIV TESTING
JULY 3 - INTEGRITY
JULY 3 - CONCERT @ MCCLV
JULY 6 - LV PFLAG
JULY 7 - MONROE PFLAG
JULY 8 - B & N GLBT BOOKCLUB
JULY 9 - DESSERT WITH FRIENDS
JULY 9 -
INTERWEAVE ICE CREAM SOCIAL
JULY 10 - GLORA POTLUCK
JULY 11 - PFLAG PICNIC
JULY 16 -STEVIEZ
@ MOOSELOUNGE
JULY 25 - GLORA PICNIC
AUG 3 - LV PFLAG
AUG 4 - MONROE PFLAG
AUG 12 - B& N GLBT BOOKCLUB
AUG 14 - GAY DAY @ KNOEBELS
AUG 20 - MCC/GLORA CAMPOUT
AUG 20 -STEVIEZ @ MOOSELOUNGE
SEPT 12 - FACT SUMMER GAMES
SEPT 17 - STEVIEZ @ MOOSELOUNGE
OCT 9 -
MCCLV ANNIVERSARY DINNER

**INFORMATION SUBJECT TO CHANGE!**
**TO POST INFO: 610-432-5449**
**LIZTRISH@AOL.COM**

## LESBIAN MUSICAL EVANGELISTS AT MCCLV

Marshall Grant Ministries will give a concert Saturday, July 3 at MCCLV. Carolyn Marshall and Pat Grant have given numerous concerts at MCCs around the country. Check out their website: www.marshallgrantministries.org The concert is free - a love offering will be taken that evening. Questions? Call MCCLV at 610-709-8800

## SERVICE & SUNDAES

MCCLV's regularly scheduled Sunday evening worship service will be held at 6:00 p.m. at the church. MCCLV worship in the Merchant's Square Mall at 1901 South 12th Street. Following the worship service MCCLV will host an Ice Cream Social at 7:30, p.m. All are welcome at the service and the social.

## BIRMELIN UPDATE

Birmelin or Smith may make another attempt to move the amendments in Harrisburgbefore the legislature adjourns for the summer. Keep contacting legislators to tell them not to support anti-gay legislation.

## GLORA

The Gay and Lesbian Organization of Reading and Allentown (GLORA) meets frequently for social events. For info write GLORA at GLORAinPA@aol.com or GLORA PO Box 541, Bethlehem, PA 18016-0541.

Upcoming events include: June 26: Potluck/ Picnic in Schwenksville.. July 10: Potluck/Picnic and Afternoon Tea in Bethlehem. July 25: Potluck/Picnic in Emmaus.

## US HATE CRIMES BILL

The US Senate has passed an amendment of the Federal Hate Crimes bill that includes sexual orientation and some language that could also include protections for gender identity. The vote was 65 - 35 to pass. The entire bill must now be passed and then must pass the house without the hate crimes language being removed. If it is not vetoed by the President, it will then become law.

## RANTS & RAVES BY STEPHEN T. LIBBY

**2004 DIVA AWARDS:** Announcing the 1st Annual VFP DIVA Awards. DIVAs chosen by you the readers, with rules made by me(natch). What becomes a DIVA most? The word DIVA is tossed around with less regard than last weekend's trick. Willy-nilly if you will. And VH-1 is doing nothing to repair the damage. Since when is LeAnn Rimes a DIVA? And Faith Hill? And Gloria Estafan? C'mon! A DIVA is an entity of nearly mythical proportions. A figure one would never approach for fear one would be so severely ignored as to suggest one didn't exist at all. Or out of fear that one would piddle in one's boxer briefs if noticed at all by said DIVA. DIVAs are modern day goddesses. Like Aphrodite, Venus and Hera, a DIVA lives by her own rules and lets no one forget it. Got it? Good. Ready to move on? Let's start the nomination process for DIVA 2004. The rules are simple.

**1. Name Recognition:** Cher, Madonna, Britney, Christina, Barbra, Elton, Whitney, J.Lo, Liza, Aretha, Diana, Enrique, Carson; a DIVA should have one-name recognition (for this category only the name should not rhyme with witch). This is not a requirement, merely a suggestion. So go ahead nominate anyone you like.

**2. Two-Faced** For the first three categories the nominee should be multi-talented, with at least one face in the music biz per Webster's definition (if only Martina Navratilova sang!). And since they are usually two-faced, the other face can be in sports, the theatre, film or I suppose television (I'm confident it's a medium that will catch on). While the nominees in the last three categories will likely be two-faced, talent is secondary. (just kidding;)

**Categories:**

**The Living DIVA:** For this award the DIVA can be young as springtime or older than dirt, but must be alive (that let's out J. Garland, B. Davis, G. Garbo, J. Crawford, Divine, M. West and Liberace, all DIVAs in their own time. --see next category). Since no one can be certain how old Cher is I suggest we cut her open and count the rings.

**The Dead DIVA:** This is where to nominate those who have kicked the bucket, bit the dust, bought the farm and/or are pushing up daisies.

**The Male DIVA:** I know sometimes it's difficult to tell the difference, but do your best. Remember, male DIVAs must adhere to the same strict standards set for the females.

**The Local DIVA:** This is where to nominate your favorite local drag queen DIVA like: Terri Courtney, Maxie Carter, Little Debbie, Terry Vicky, Carol Anne, Monica DuMont, Kitty Mame Dietrich, Giselle, Jasmine Starr or any bloody other DIVA you can think of.

**The Local HE-VA:** Please nominate local drag kings like Simmer, Charlie, Sebastian, Apollo, Edge in this category. HE-VAs are new and therefore must be house trained and polished regularly.

**The Anti-DIVA:** This person should possess qualities quite the opposite of a DIVA. Someone who is so approachable and so kind that you could see yourself as their best friend. Read B-O-R-I-N-G. (only your pre hang-over Absolute induced delusions of grandeur, allow you to think a true DIVA would hang with you and your click).

Now, time to discuss amongst yourselves. Oh yeah, the last rule is to have fun!!! Fill out a nomination ballot at the Valley Free Press booth or "e" me your nominations at STL327@hotmail.com . **HAVE A SAFE & HAPPY PRIDE!!!!!!!!!!** and as usual smooches, Steve

# PLANET Parenthood

by Earl and Donnie Snyder
donniearlucas@msn.com

## DADDY AND FATTY

Same-sex couples encounter quite a few hurdles to jump and barriers to break when adopting a child. From finding a gay-friendly agency to the actual legal adoption itself approved by the court to the selection of a name for the child. Assuming all that is accomplished, there is one more seemingly simple issue with which to deal. How will the child address each one of the new same-sex parents possibly for the rest of their lives? Mom, Mommy, Mama, Dad, Daddy, Papa? This is usually a non-issue for heterosexual parents. They are Mama and Dada, which later becomes Mommy and Daddy and finally Mom and Dad or even the more formal Mother and Father.

As a same-sex male couple, we are waiting for our baby to utter his first word. We are hoping beyond hope it will be, "Dada." One of us will be very excited when that happens. No, both of us will, possibly tinged with a bit of jealousy: each of us certain the baby was actually referring to the other one of us or quite smug about the possibility the baby was not referring to the other one of us.

So, we have begun the task of coming up with acceptable parental names for each other. Dad and Daddy? Daddy and Papa? This became problematic for us. When one of us found a name that was acceptable, the other felt the other choices sounded too silly, too formal, or too old. Papa sounds too old. We were quite concerned about sounding too old or looking old... so we bought some anti-aging creams, and wrinkle removers... but that's probably a topic for a different column.

We asked a friend for help on the names. She said she would think about it and get back to us. We put all our bets on her pulling us through. We waited a week with bated breath for her to get back to us. She had put her young son to the task of finding a name for each of us. He extended his search beyond the English language and into the Swedish and Dutch dictionaries. Their solution: One of us would be the Father and the other one would be the Fahter or more affectionately we would be known as Daddy and Fahtie.

We were silent for only one quick moment as the impulse traveled from the brain to the mouth, We blurted in unison, "You can be the FATTY!!! ...Yuck! No thanks.

## SAFESPACES EPISCOPAL TASK FORCE

SAFESPACES is a Task Force called together by Bishop Paul Marshall of the Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem to help find ways that congregations can be safer and more welcoming for GLBT persons. The Task Force has sent a full color 3x5 card of "welcome" with the local parish's name under a color graphic of the rainbow flag with the Episcopal Shield super-imposed on it. Parishes are asked to discuss whether they are truly welcoming and if so, to post this where GLBT visitors and parishioners can see it. The Rev. T. Scott Allen of St. Elizabeth's, Schnecksville is currently convener of this group.

Safe Spaces is also developing written guidelines for clergy doing same-sex couple counseling. This document highlight some issues and concerns that gay couples may struggle with, which are non-issues for heterosexual couples. The Rev. Jane Williams of Christ Church, Reading, a licensed therapist is spearheading this effort. Future work will include a brochure raising consciousness among parishes and clergy on welcoming gay persons or couples. Information: 610-691-8303.

# SCOTT SAYS©

By Scott Laubner

## MORE CONFESSIONS

Once upon a time, there were four little girls. One from Whitehall, one from Allentown, one from West Reading, the other from Shamokin. And they were each assigned very hazardous duties. But I took them away from all of that and now they work for me. My name is Charlie...

Alright so my name isn't Charlie. But I was a judge for the Miss Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley Pageant. Wow that's a mouthful, not that I'm complaining.

This year's pageant's theme was the exotic Copa Cabana and the Stonewall, bedecked with grass mats and paper lanterns, looked like that Brazilian beach. In colored letters "Pride 2004" hung from the ceiling above the bar. I wondered if Pride hired Michelangelo Buonarroti to hang that. After the judges took their seats, the pageant began with an opening number by Sylvia Silverberg, the reigning Miss Pride of the Greater Lehigh Valley. In a wonderful hat inspired by Carmen Miranda, Sylvia performed to a wonderful Barry Manilow number Welcome to Havana. Two back up dancers, dressed as natives, gave out leis to audience members. After Sylvia left the stage, the glamorous Vaunessa Vale performed to Everlasting Love. Then stunning Kitty Mame Dietrich, who could out-Vegas any showgirl on the strip, danced the Charleston.

The contestants were announced. This year's four beautiful ladies were; Miss Laurissa Roberts, Miss Katrina Banks, Miss Chyanne Ne`Armani and Miss Tequilla Daniels. In addition to being beautiful and talented, all four contestants are active in the gay community which made it harder for the judges, not that I'm complaining.

Each contestant came out and performed for the talent portion. And each was great.

While the girls changed into evening wear, Terri Courtney rocked the house with a remix of a dozen songs, and Apollo, the new King of Pride, and Edge, his back up, performed I Love The Way You Move. Gisselle lip synched Sweet Dreams and would have made Annie Lennox proud.

Each of the ladies looked wonderful in their formal gowns.

Then each contestant pulled a question out of a fish bowl. Each answered her question and the judging was over. Sylvia did a farewell turn around the dance floor as scores of admirers walked up and congratulated her on her excellent reign.

And then the results: The Audience choice award went to Tequilla Daniels. Miss Congeniality was won by Miss Laurissa Roberts. First runner up is Katrina Banks. And the winner is ...Miss Tequilla Roberts!

Congratulations to all the contestants and good luck to Tequilla Roberts. I hope your reign is a fabulous one.

## MCC AND GLORA CAMPING

The 2nd annual group camp out, sponsored by MCCLV and GLORA: Friday, Aug. 20 thru Sunday Aug. 22, at the Woods Campground, near Lehighton (only 45 mins from the Lehigh Valley). Group meals: Sat. breakfast, lunch and dinner, and Sunday breakfast and lunch. BYO drinks, firewood, propane stove. Cost per person will probably be between $30 and $40. Contact vze269y9@verizon.net by Aug.6 re: deposit to reserve your space. Campgound Includes: pool, pond, volleyball, new shower & bathroom facilities, disco, bon-fire, Toga weekend! (clothing optional) See www.thewoodscampground.com

# LIZ OUT LOUD®

## EVERYBODY OUT

*By Liz Bradbury*

National Coming Out Day (NCOD) is October 11. In the past, the purpose of this day has always been to encourage GLBT people to come out of the closet to at least one person they know. It's a good plan, because statistics continue to show that as more and more "average" people become aware they know someone who is gay or transgender the percentage of people who support equal rights for GLBT people rises.

Each year, many GLBT people come out on NCOD. But as it is now, all the coming out has to come from the GLBT side. I think another component should be added to the October 11 observance of National Coming Out Day.

I'd like to initiate a new tradition. On NCOD, every parent across the country would tell their kid, "Honey, I just want you to know, that if you are gay or lesbian or bisexual or transgender, you can tell me, because I'll always love you no matter what. I think you should have the same rights as everyone else, and I'll always support you, because I care about you, and I always will."

Every parent would say this to every kid on October 11. Starting at infancy, all though their entire lives, every kid would hear at least once a year that their parents would love them if they were gay. This would be strongly encouraged whether the parents suspected the kid was gay or transgendered or not.

There could be buttons to wear and greeting cards to send or leave beside the breakfast bowl. PFLAG could market them. There could be pre-designed e-cards to email.

The day should ultimately be supported by a national campaign in schools, in the media and on TV. Will and Grace could do a theme show about it. Rosie O'Donnell could be the national spokes-mom.

The Goals: Every GLBT kid would get to hear their parents say they would love then if they were GLBT, long before taking the frightening risk of coming out. Every straight kid would hear their parents say they could love and respect a GLBT person. All parents may become more supportive in general, when they begin to imagine the possibility of GLBT people in their own family. And there's even one more bitter sweet byproduct; if a parent couldn't bring themselves to say they would have unconditional love for their gay child, then the gay kid would know it and could stay in the closet at home, while searching for better adjusted adult role models among their friend's parents, or in places like Haven or MCC.

Let's do it... with email, this idea could circle the globe twice before October. Take a moment to think-- How would it have changed your life, if your parents had told you, just once every year as you grew up, that they would love you if you were gay?

On this National Coming Out Day... maybe not just GLBT people will be coming out. Remember, you heard it here first.

# FAHRENHEIT 9/11

**June 27 - July 18 At the 19th St. Theater, Allentown**

A Lehigh Valley exclusive! From the Ocasr-winning filmmaker of Bowling for Columbine comes the year's most controversial film, winner of the Cannes Film Festival's Palme D'Or for Best Film. "If you think the government is secretive...if you think the corporations are greedy...you haven't seen anything yet." Academy Award-winner Michael Moore turns up the heat with this examination of the current state of America, including the powerful role oil, greed and family politics may have played after the Sept. 11 attacks.

# TRISH'S COLUMN

*By Patricia Sullivan®*

## IF YOU DON'T KNOW THE DIFFERENT BETWEEN CIVIL UNIONS & CIVIL MARRIAGE LEARN IT NOW!

**Civil Union only grants the state rights for the state in which it is issued. Civil Union does not grant federal Rights (there are 1000 federal Marriage rights ) And Civil Union is not recognized outside of the state it is issued.**

**Civil Marriage will grant state and federal rights. A Civil Marriage performed in one state will ultimately be recognized in all of the United States because of the full faith and credit clause of the US Constitution.**

**As long as one state begins to recognize same-sex marriage, ultimately the only thing that will block the national recognition of legal civil marriage for same-sex couples in every state is an amendment to the US Constitution banning same-sex marriage.**

# LV GAY MEN'S CHORUS

The Lehigh Valley Gay Men's Chorus wishes to thank all those who attended their June 5 concert. The concert concluded the chorus's 9th season and featured selections from its soon-to-be released CD, "Slice."

Visit members of the chorus at their booth at Pride in the Park in Allentown and on July 31 at Central PA Pridefest in Harrisburg. Sign up for the chorus mailing list, sample selections of the chorus's CDs, discover for the upcoming 10th anniversary season and learn how you can help the chorus achieve its goal of excellence through the choral arts by becoming a singing or 5th Section member or sponsor. Contact info@lvgmc.org, 610-366-3320 or PO Box 20712 Lehigh Valley, PA 18002-0712. Visit www.lvgmc.org to view history, fun facts and pre-order your copy of "Slice.".

# NEW SERVICES ORGANIZATION

MCCLV is sponsoring a NEW Lehigh Valley GLBT organization that will provide professional services to the GLBT community. These may include a hotline, referral service, peer and professional counseling, and expertise/training to the community at large about GLBT issues.

REPRESENTATIVES OF THE GLBT COMMUNITY AND EXPERTS IN THE ABOVE SERVICES are needed to join this effort. NEXT MEETING: SUNDAY JUNE 27, 4 P.M. at MCCLV. Directions at www.mcclv.org.

# POP QUIZ 8

Top Ten VFP Quiz Questions of the last year...

1. Openly gay actor Jack Larsen played what 1950s TV character? A. Tonto B. Hopalong Cassidy C. Jimmey Olsen D. Clarabelle

2. What local activist played racquet ball with artist Keith Haring, bumped into Keith's racquet and had to go to the ER? (Keith Haring even came with him to the hospital.) A. Joe Canto B. Jim Fillman C. Tim Chadwick D. Dave Moyer

3. How many chops did it take to break down the door in the Witch's Castle? A. 5 B. 7 C. 11 D. 21

4. In the beginning credits of Will & Grace, how many scenes show same-sex physical contact? A. 1 B. 2 C. 4 D. 5

5. How many scenes show opposite-sex people in contact? A. 1 B. 2 C. 4 D. 5

6. What Greater Lehigh Valley Pride Board Member went to High School with (Queer Eye Guy) Carson Kressley? A. Constance Kristofik B. Brad Wentz C. Pam Pillsbury D. David Baldwin

7. Whose love for Arthur Hugh Hallam prompted him to write: 'Tis better to have loved and lost/Than never to have loved at all.' A. Tennyson B. Wordsworth C. Byron D. Whitman

8. The Allentown hospital that demoted Dr. Gwen Greenberg allegedly because she is transgender was: A. Lehigh Valley B. St. Luke's C. Good Shepard D. Sacred Heart

9. Civil Unions: A. Only grant the rights from the state where they are issued. B. Do not grant any of the over 1000 federal marriage rights. C. Are not portable from state to state. D. All of the above.

10. Civil Marriages: A. Will grant federal rights. B. Can be recognized from State to State due to the US Constitution Full Faith and Credit Clause. C. Can only be stopped by a US Constitutional Amendment or a State Constitutional amendment. D. All of the above.

1.C 2.A 3.C 4.A 5.C 6.A 7.A 8.B 9.D 10.D

## QUOTE#5

"The big elephant sitting in the corner is that George W. Bush is simply unqualified for the job... What's his accomplishment? That he's no longer an obnoxious drunk?" **Ron Reagan Jr. decrying Bush's use of Ron Sr.'s death as a campaign tool.**

**TO GET A SUBSCRIPTION TO THE VALLEY FREE PRESS JOIN PA-GALA BY SENDING $20 TO: PA-GALA, P.O. BOX 20825 LEHIGH VALLEY, PA 18002**

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We believe it would improve the quality of life in the Lehigh Valley if all people were equally protected from unfair discrimination based upon actual or perceived: race,color, religion ,national origin,ancestry or place of birth, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, marital status, family status, age, disability, or use of a guide animal, in the areas of employment, housing, and public accommodation.

PA-GALA

Valley Free Press

Allentown Human Relations Commission

Safe-Space of Lehigh University

PFLAG Lehigh Valley

ACCO - A Chorus Celebrating Women

GLORA

Pride of the GLV

LV Gay Men's Chorus

NCC GLBT Student Union

The Lehigh Valley Labor Party

EQUAL! at Agere

Metropolitan Community Church LV

OutThere - Cedar Crest

9th Street Shelter Allentown

LV Community Action Committee

GLEE at Air Products

FACT

AIDS Outreach

The Unitarian Universalist Church LV

GLOSS

LEPOCO

GLISN of Dun & Bradstreet

AIDS Services Center

Theatre Outlet

Integrity - Bethlehem

The Lehigh Valley Religious Society of Friends (Quakers)

Civic Theater 19th Street Theatre

The Latin Alliance

The Enigma Players

New Covenant Family Ministries

Properties of Merit

Allentown City Democratic Committee

Episcopal Diocese of Bethlehem

Puerto Rican Cultural Alliance

Turning Point of the Lehigh Valley

Muhlenberg Theater Association

Crime Victims Council of the Lehigh Valley

To add your organization to this list, Contact VFP

## QUOTE #1

" If you are not out in some aspect of your life, let me break it to you: most people know what's up about you and they are talking about you when you are not around. They would like to talk about it with you, but they are just waiting for you to say something." **-- MCC Reverend Beth Goudy, from a recent sermon.**

## QUOTE #2

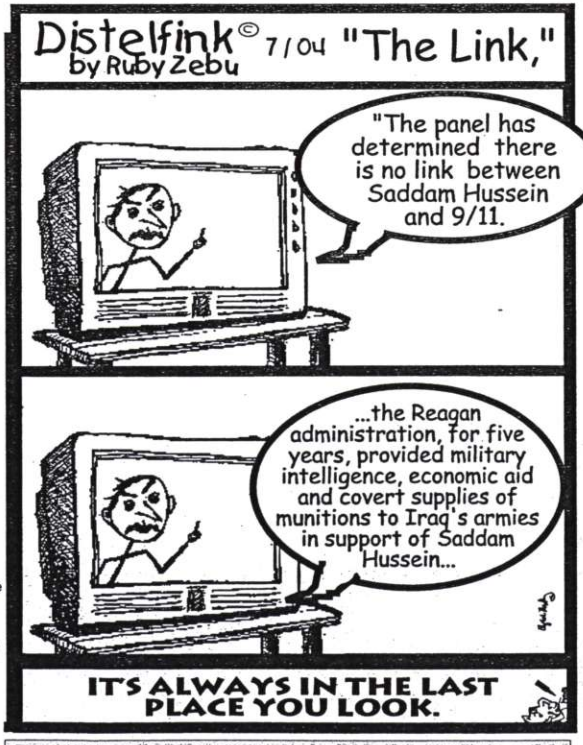
"You cannot just take one person's rights away, you wind up taking everybody's rights away." **-- PA-GALA Coordiantor Liz Bradbury, in a Channel 69 News interview , discussing the far reaching consequences of the Allentown Lawsuit decision.**

## QUOTE #3

"I am very proud to be mayor of the city on this particular day. We have broken down another barrier. That is what life is all about -- breaking down barriers and making this an open society for everyone to live in, to cherish each other and to have a great life."
**-- Boston Mayor Tom Menino as he escorted same-sex couples into Boston City Hall to buy their marriage licenses, May 17.**

## QUOTE#4

"(Reagan's) White House Director of Communications, Patrick Buchanan, once argued in print that AIDS is nature's revenge on gay men." **--Matt Foreman, Executive Director National Gay and Lesbian Task Force on Reagan's non-response to the AIDS epidemic.**

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